



# **We Can Alleviate Poverty in Africa**

## **A Vote to Extend and Expand the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA III) is a Vote for African Economic Independence.**

The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), first passed in 2000, sought to alleviate poverty and political instability in Africa by giving duty-free entry to many African exports in exchange for political, economic, and human rights reforms. Thirty-seven sub-Saharan African nations have made progress in these areas and are now eligible for AGOA benefits. U.S. imports under AGOA totaled \$9 billion in 2002, and since AGOA passed, imports of African clothes have tripled and imports of African cars quadrupled. The latest bill, AGOA III, has been introduced by Congressman Jim McDermott (D-WA) and would expand and extend the trade benefits provided by AGOA. Specifically, AGOA III would:

- Extend current AGOA benefits to 2020.
- Provide American consumers and importers with duty-free access to products such as peanuts, sugars, cocoa powders and chocolates, and clothing, which are currently subject to high tariffs and/or quotas.
- Extend the ability for the least-developed Africa apparel producers to use fabric from outside the region to allow them to compete more effectively with efficient Asian production and ensure that a wide-range of African apparel products can continue to receive AGOA duty-free status.
- Assist in the development of infrastructure, in part by aiding in the development of a sustainable ecotourism industry.
- Require the US Agency for International Development to study individual countries in sub-Saharan Africa and identify sectors of their economies with the most potential for export growth and help to eliminate the barriers that may prevent the growth of the identified exports.
- Create jobs for Americans by strengthening purchasing power in Sub-Saharan Africa through economic development; and
- Provide tax incentives for contributions to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria.

**Consumers for World Trade  
Urges Members of Congress to Co-Sponsor H.R. 3572  
in Support of Sustainable Growth and  
Development throughout Sub-Saharan Africa**



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